

CLAIM AMENDMENTS:

1. (previously presented): A content-certified e-mail service system having an e-mail content certifying device for certifying contents of a text of an e-mail sent from an e-mail terminal device at a sender's side to an e-mail terminal device at a receiver's side within a network, wherein:

said e-mail terminal device at the sender's side sends a content certification request e-mail to said e-mail content certifying device, said content certification request e-mail containing an e-mail address of said e-mail terminal device at the receiver's side and a text of content certification;

said e-mail content certifying device judges, upon receipt of said content certification request e-mail, whether there is any tampering with said text of content certification in said e-mail; and

said e-mail content certifying device, upon judging that there is no tampering with said text of content certification, saves registration information that contains said text of content certification in a storage device, sends a content-certified email that contains said text of content certification to said email terminal device at the receiver's side, and sends a receipt e-mail that contains receipt information indicating that content certification has been effected to said e-mail terminal device at the sender's side;

said e-mail terminal device at the sender's side sends a review request e-mail to said e-mail content certifying device, said review request e-mail containing said receipt information in said receipt e-mail;

said e-mail content certifying device, upon receipt of said review request e-mail, retrieves one set of registration information corresponding to an identifier in said review request e-mail from said storage device, and judges whether there is any tampering with the receipt information in said review request email based on said one set of registration information retrieved; and

said e-mail content certifying device, upon judging that there is no tampering with the receipt information in said review request e-mail, sends an e-mail containing said text of content certification to said e-mail terminal device at the sender's side.

2. (canceled)

3. (original): The content-certified e-mail service system according to claim 1, wherein:

said e-mail content certifying device issues a settlement request command to a settling institution to settle a fee for a content certifying operation of the text of the e-mail on a credit card.

4. (currently amended): A content-certified e-mail service system having an e-mail content certifying device for certifying content of a text of an e-mail sent from an e-mail terminal device at a sender's side to an e-mail terminal device at a receiver's side within a network, wherein:

said e-mail terminal device at the sender's side sends a content certification request e-mail to said e-mail content certifying device, said content certification request e-mail containing an e-mail address of said e-mail terminal device at the receiver's side and a text of content certification;

said e-mail content certifying device judges, upon receipt of said content certification request e-mail, whether there is any tampering with said text of content certification in said e-mail;

said e-mail content certifying device, upon judging that there is no tampering with said text of content certification, saves registration information that contains said text of content certification in a storage device, sends a content certification notice e-mail containing an access destination in a Web server and an access key for specifying a receiver to said e-mail terminal

device at the receiver's side, and sends a receipt e-mail containing receipt information indicating that content certification has been effected to said e-mail terminal device at the sender's side;

said e-mail terminal device at the receiver's side, upon receipt of said content certification notice e-mail, accesses said Web server using the access destination in said e-mail, and sends said access key to said e-mail content certifying device through a Web page;

[[and]] said e-mail content certifying device, upon receipt of said access key from said e-mail terminal device at the receiver's side, retrieves from said storage device one set of registration information corresponding to said access key received, and allows downloading by said e-mail terminal device at the receiver's side of said text of content certification contained in said one set of registration information retrieved; and

said e-mail content certifying device, after confirming said downloading by said e-mail terminal device at the receiver's side of said text of content certification, sends a delivery certification e-mail to said e-mail terminal device at the sender's side.

5. (original): The content-certified e-mail service system according to claim 4, wherein:
said access key contains a receiver's identifier and a receiver's e-mail address;
and said e-mail content certifying device retrieves from said storing device one set of registration information corresponding to said receiver's identifier in said access key received, and judges whether the receiver's e-mail address in said access key received coincides with the receiver's e-mail address in said one set of registration information retrieved, said e-mail content certifying device allowing said downloading only when coincidence is confirmed.

6. (canceled)